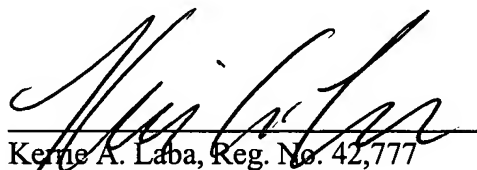


### REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-20 remain in the application including independent claims 1, 13, and 19. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled and claims 21-26 have been added. Replacement drawing sheets are included to correct a number duplication. Examination is now requested.

Fees in the amount of \$108.00 are paid by the attached check. Applicant believes no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

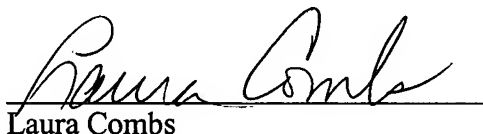


Kerne A. Laba, Reg. No. 42,777  
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds  
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 988-8360

Dated: June 9, 2004

### CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9 day of June, 2004.



Laura Combs